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William Nixon Collection
Collection 222-1 to 222-3

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MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The collection consists of 5 scrapbooks pertaining to the life and career of William Nixon and his daughter Ethel L. Nixon Mounsey, MD. Nixon was a self-taught architect, stage/set designer, furniture maker and civic activist. His daughter Dr. Mounsey was the first African American to obtain a doctorate in psychology from the Johns Hopkins University. Of note are copies of manumission records of Mr. Nixon's parents Buriel Nixon and his wife Maria Nixon. The scrapbooks range from 1871 to 1970.

The scrapbooks were donated by Dr. Nixon Mounsey's daughters Dolores Mounsey and Mera E. Mounsey-Archambeau.

Biographical Sketch

William D. Nixon was born to Burril Nixon and Maria Adams Nixon in 1871. He attended Washington, DC public schools from elementary to high school. He completed work at Miner Normal school. Unable to find work after graduation he travelled to Detroit, Michigan where he was employed as a clerk-typist for several years. He returned to Washington, DC and worked as an art teacher in Paul Laurence Dunbar high school for 40 years. Throughout the course of his life he became involved in the struggle for equal rights through a number of civic organizations. He served as the president of the Oldest Inhabitants (Colored), DC. During his tenure the organization openly challenged the segregation in city employment, the Pearl Buck affair, as well as, advocated for public Emancipation Day celebrations.

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Ethel L. Nixon Mounsey was born to William D. Nixon and Edith Nixon on July 10, 1910. She attended Washington DC public schools such as Garnett Patterson and graduated Paul Laurence Dunbar high school. She graduated from Dunbar high school in 1926. She completed her B.S. from Howard University in 1930 and within four years graduated from Howard University School of Medicine in 1934. She was the only woman in that graduating class. She interned at Freedmen's Hospital in 1935 which led to opening her own medical practice at 1738 Fifteenth Street, NW then to 1300 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. and eventually attended the Johns Hopkins University completing work in the field of psychology. In 1935 she married Frank K. Mounsey and had three children Mera Edythe, Delores Anita and Frances Diane. In 1952 she worked at Crownsville Hospital Director of psychiatric education and training at Crownsville State Hospital she was the only woman appointed to the directorship at Crownsville.

Series Description

Series A William Nixon scrapbooks

Box 222-1 to Box 222-2 This series contains four scrapbooks created and maintained by William Nixon. Mr. Nixon's scrapbooks range in interest from his elementary school diploma to award for free-hand graphic design to numerous clippings on social, political and professional interests throughout his adult life. Of interest is his involvement with the Oldest Inhabitants (Colored) of Washington, DC. News clippings cover topics about civil rights, Jim Crow, Pearl Buck speaking debacle, victory gardens, Mammy monument, public bathing, integration, and related topics

Series B Ethel M. Nixon Mounsey, MD scrapbook

Box 222-3 This series contains one scrapbook documenting the life and career of Dr. Nixon Mounsey. Her young life, matriculation through Johns Hopkins University, her wedding picture and professional career are documented with news clippings, correspondence and photographs. Of note is a booklet on Basic Psychiatry authored by Dr. Nixon Mounsey. She wrote short stories. Also her work within the African American community is remarkable.

Series C Nixon family/Family History scrapbooks

Box 222-3 This series is an example of remembrance. The Mounsey siblings crafted scrapbooks for each other as well as children within the family. This unique arrangement provides a snapshot into a unique Washington family whose proclivity of collecting, arranging and passing on family history within the context of larger social issues is unusual.

Container List

Series A	William D. Nixon scrapbook
Box	Folder
222-1	<p>1 1891-1960 – Washington High School certificate; award winning free-hand graphic design; news clippings; telegrams regarding the Tidal Basin; flyers regarding People’s Department store; Whitelaw hotel brochures; advertising designs; stationery; annual statement Young Men’s Protective League; program; photograph of Nixon house; Oldest Inhabitants, Inc. resolution; correspondence; No Negro Need Apply pamphlet by Harlan Glazier. Blue cover</p> <p>2 1877-1955 – The Nursery monthly magazine; Washington High School report card; programs; telegram; Confederate bill; Young Men’s Protective League; set & graphic designs; correspondence; news clippings; Whitelaw hotel brochure; invitations; Washington DC teacher evaluation; Fairmount Heights Citizens Association flyer; Negro History week art competition; photographs of Nixon and properties; Louisville Case information; Washington DC Chamber of Commerce certificate. Brown cover</p>
222-2	<p>3-5 1908-1955 – The Five Days Fight short story; programs; photographs Edith Nixon; WWI graphic designs; news clippings; Civic Center of Affiliated Associations; pastor roster; Memo to Commissioner Dougherty; correspondence; Whitelaw hotel brochure; organizational stationery; A Justification of the Report on Race Relations; Oldest Inhabitants, Inc. resolutions; invitations; press releases; petition of the Federation of Civic Associations; picketing materials. Brown cover with lace</p>
222-3	<p>6-7 1912-1961 – news clippings; flyers; passenger information form; Expansion of the Curriculum of the District of Columbia notice; Do we understand the racial issue?; correspondence; letter to the editors; petitions; open statements; The Gleaner newsletter; Lest We Forget; The Tail Wagging the Dog; Only One Thing intervened...; graphs; Sunshine magazine; An 80 Year Wait; Whitelaw hotel brochure; Dyer Bill; Federation of Civic Association – First Battalion 372nd Infantry pamphlet; The Little Vietnamese Girl. Red cover</p>

Container List

Series B	Ethel M. Nixon Mounsey, MD scrapbook
Box	Folder
222-3	8 1935-1954 - news clippings; photographs; correspondence; condolences; stationery; Basic Psychiatry booklet. Xeroxed copy.
Series C	Nixon family/Family History scrapbooks
	9 news clippings; manumission papers for Burrill Nixon and Maria Nixon; photographs; marriage certificate; programs; correspondence; teacher rating sheet; graphics; set designs; invitation; citation. Xeroxed copy
	10 sketches; marriage certificate; news clippings; correspondence; certificate; programs. Xeroxed copy